

**Concept Note: Jason Rae**

I'd like to propose that we study the impact that legislation on voter ID in Wisconsin has on disenfranchising voters. In particular, we have seen bits and pieces of the law upheld by the Courts, while other pieces are still pending. Here is a recent article: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/judges-ruling-a-mixed-bag-for-those-challenging-voter-id-law-b99644007z1-364062231.html>. I am particularly intrigued by recent legislation at the state level that would prohibit local municipalities from providing IDs that would work for voting, see: <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/wisconsin-id-local-governments>. I believe this fits in our Commission's role. I think studying the proposed and existing legislation, what impacts it has on voter turnout and such could help advise best practices for ensuring that everyone eligible voter is able to cast his or her ballot.

**Concept Note: Angie Harris**

In 2014, the Annie E. Casey Foundation (see report - <http://www.aecf.org/resources/race-for-results/>) issued a report arguing that Wisconsin was the worst place to raise African American children. This is just another in the many news reports that argued that Wisconsin, and Milwaukee in particular, was the worst place in the nation for African Americans in general. Wisconsin has the highest rates of African American male incarceration, high poverty rates for African American families, high unemployment rates for African Americans, poor test scores for African American children, the highest Black/White achievement gap in the nation, high rates of lead poisoning for African American children, and the list goes on. This fits into the Committee's jurisdiction as most of the issues facing African Americans, and other people of color and those who are poor, in the state are structural in nature. There is clear evidence of discrimination based on race here in Wisconsin and this should be an issue addressed by the Committee.

Links to relevant articles/sites:

<http://kulturekritic.com/2015/10/life/milwaukee-ranked-worst-city-for-blacks-after-wisconsin-ranked-worst-state-for-black-children/>

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/website-ranks-wisconsin-as-worst-state-for-black-americans-b99409235z1-285897111.html>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/here-are-worst-states-black-americans-2015-illinois-minnesota-wisconsin-top-list-2216389>

<http://wisconsinwatch.org/2015/12/wisconsins-black-white-achievement-gap-worst-in-nation/>

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/wisconsin-tops-nation-in-black-joblessness-study-finds-b99469404z1-297604661.html>

<http://www.med.wisc.edu/news-events/lead-exposure-dooms-some-wisconsin-kids-to-struggle-in-school/42227>

**Concept Note: Naheed Bleeker**

Proposal to expand on the hate crimes report from 2013: I suggest inviting new panelists would be helpful. I think if we focus on those who "look" like a particular follower of a religion--unaccompanied young women--would be eye-opening.

Concept Note: Yang Sao Xiong and May Yer Thao

Hmong Americans are the largest Asian American group in the state of Wisconsin. During the past 10 years, Hmong adults have reported many dangerous and possibly racist encounters with other persons—often White persons—while hunting on lands throughout Wisconsin. Some of these encounters have involved alleged trespassing. Some encounters have resulted in violence against Hmong hunters and in documented serious injury or death to Hmong hunters. Some Hmong victims who try to seek justice through institutional channels (law enforcement and legal justice systems) have encountered delayed, prejudiced and/or negative responses from some local authorities and/or elected officials. In short, Hmong adults in our state continue to face the threat of violent crimes and racist assaults while engaging in a sport (hunting) that many Wisconsinites participate in on a regular basis.

Link (2007 killing of Mr. Cha Vang): <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2007/01/16/huntercharged>

Link (2014 serious injury to Mr. Sao Lue Vang): [http://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/news/local/pepin-man-sentenced-for-beating-menomonie-hunter/article\\_d699e88b-a95d-54a2-8ba4-ec58c28d640d.html](http://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/news/local/pepin-man-sentenced-for-beating-menomonie-hunter/article_d699e88b-a95d-54a2-8ba4-ec58c28d640d.html)